

Application No. 09/831,861  
Amendment dated June 14, 2004  
Reply to Office action of February 11, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 13, 21, 22, 27, and 29 - 34 are pending.

Claims 1, 8, 13, 21, 22, 27, and 29 - 31 have been allowed.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 32 - 34 is requested, particularly in view of the amendment to claims 32 and 34 presented herein.

Claim 32, as currently amended, is directed to the embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG. 9 and described in paragraph 92. Briefly, in this embodiment, the porous film does not have a backing, and the porous film is bonded to the radial peripheral surface surrounding the through hole of the resin body by entry of molten resin from the resin body into pores of the film. Thus, claim 32, as amended, specifically recites that "said water-repellent film overlies and is bonded to said radial peripheral surface by entry of molten resin from said resin body into pores of said film."

No corresponding structure is taught in Jenkins et al. In Jenkins et al. a gas-permeable film is associated with a coffee container in order to separate off-gas, specifically carbon dioxide, from the coffee. It is not clear how the membrane is secured to the container. However, in the embodiments disclosed, the container, and its lid are composed of metal, and accordingly there is no possibility of bonding by entry of the container material into pores of the film. Even in the case of a container component having a polymeric surface coating (Jenkins et al., column 5, line 5), there is no indication that the polymer enters the pores of the film.

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In Hascoe et al., a sealing cover, is secured to a container by fusion of a sealing ring to the cover and to the container (Hascoe et al., column 3, lines 31-36). Here again, there is no teaching of the concept of bonding a porous membrane to a resin body by entry of molten resin from the resin body into the pores of a porous film.

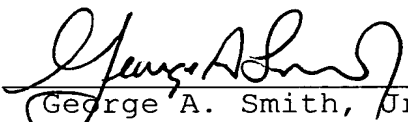
Claim 34, as amended, is directed to the structure shown in FIG. 1(c), wherein the resin of the resin body is integrated with the thermoplastic backing in the injection molding process. In the injection molding process, the resin of the housing, when injected into the mold in a molten condition, comes into contact with the thermoplastic backing layer on the porous film. The heat of the molten resin causes the backing layer to fuse, so that, when both materials cool and solidify, they are integrally joined together, as explained in paragraph 0074. The bond is such that the film is not easily peeled, as explained in paragraph 0022.

The process of melting the backing layer by using the heat of the injection-molded resin of the resin body, results in a structure that is different from the prior art, in that the resin of the resin body and the thermoplastic backing on the porous film are integrated with each other as a result of the fact that both materials are melted where they come together. This structure is now defined in claim 34 by the language "said backing material is bonded to said resin body by a bond composed of a solidified molten material, said molten material consisting of molten resin of the resin body and molten thermoplastic of said backing material integrated with each other."

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Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 32 -34 and allowance of those claims along with claims 1, 8, 13, 21, 22, 27, and 29 - 31, are requested.

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Enclosure:  
    (a) request for extension  
    (b) extension fee